

Sachuest Point

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy (D-1st)

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Sachuest Point National Wildlife
Refuge is one of five national wildlife
refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

Purpose

Sachuest Point National Wildlife
Refuge was established for develop-
ment, management, advancement,
conservation and protection of fish and
wildlife resources, for incidental wild-
life-oriented recreation and for conser-
vation of endangered and threatened
species.

Public Use Notes

- Two observations
- Three miles of nature trails
- Visitor center
- Frequent guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Surf fishing (nighttime permit required)

Management Activities

- Comprehensive Conservation Plan completed in spring 2002
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Controlling invasive exotic species on 10 acres a year
- Protecting the threatened piping plover
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown scheduled to open in fall 2004
- Ongoing reclamation of landfill will be completed in 2004

Highlights

Sachuest Point is home to over 200 species of birds.

The refuge is renowned for excellent surf fishing opportunities and manages a nighttime fishing permit system.

The waters at Sachuest Point are known for a wintering population of the rare and colorful harlequin duck.

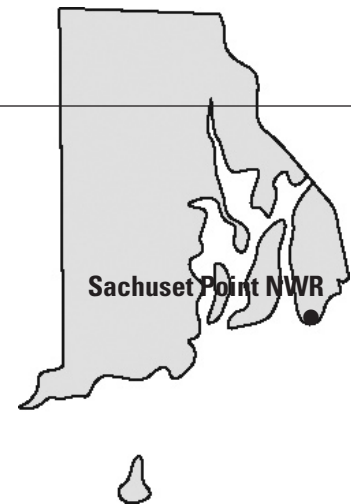
The first piping plover nest on Aquidneck Island since the 1950s was found on the refuge in 2002.

The newly renovated visitor center attracts hundreds of people.

The refuge has an active and involved cadre of volunteers and an award-winning Friends group.

Outdoor interpretive signs and a new viewing platform were donated by individuals and the Friends group.

The landfill remediation will safeguard environmental quality and create 10.5 acres of salt marsh.



Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Serious shoreline litter and pollution problem

Increasing public use and demands on limited staff

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use area

Managing and eliminating inappropriate public uses, including dog walking, jogging and illicit nighttime activities

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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